(b) whether the above mentioned labourers are exploited in other States; and

(c) if so, the measures proposed to be taken up by the Government to protect these labourers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) The Government are aware that workers from economically backward areas migrate to other States for seeking temporary employment in seasonal activities, for better prospects and higher wages.

(b) Although such workers are prone to exploitation, however, as per NCRL report (1987—91), the incomes of migrant labour are higher that what they might have been able to earn without migration.

(c) The Government have enacted the Inter-State Migrant (Recs) Act, 1979 to regulate their employment and provide for their conditions of service etc. The Government are also implementing several poverty alleviation programmes like, IRDP, EAS, JRY, IJRY, DWA CRA, TRYSEM etc. designed for acquiring income generating assets and for generating additional gainful employment for those below the poverty line. The outlay on these programmes has been substantially stepped up during the VIIIth Plan.

[English]

Quality Programmes

3325. SHRI DARBARA SINGH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether people in Punjab mostly watch the programmes telecast by Pakistan Television as they consider such programmes more interesting;

(b) if so, whether during the telecast anti-India propaganda is also made by Pakistan; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to telecast the programmes of much standard and interest so as to ensure that the Indians are not in anyway misled by Pakistan's anti-India propaganda?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Pakistan Television does indulge in anti-India propaganda.

(c) It is Doordarshan's constant endeavour to telecast suitable programmes to counter the Pak propaganda by presenting a factual picture of happenings and developments in the country and abroad.

[Translation]

Air India Irregular Service

3326. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH:
DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of flights of Air India which were irregular and could not take off on Schedule during the last two years;

(b) whether the Government propose to consider to provide alternative arrangements to the passengers in case of delay of one hour or more in the flights;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) 1746 single flights were cancelled during the period April, 1994 to March, 1996 due to adverse weather, airport restrictions, technical snags etc.

(b) to (d). In case of delay of one to two hours, passengers are provided with refreshments at the airport. In the event of extended delay, alternative arrangements on first available flights are made subject to availability of capacity.

[English]

Vizag Steel Plant

3327. SHRI AYYANNA PATRUDU : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the land acquired by the Vizag Steel Plant has been fully utilised;

(b) if not, whether the vacant land is proposed to be returned to the owners; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (c). The requirement of land for Visakhapatnam Steel Plant was initially estimated to be 27,455 acres in 1980. Subsequently, the requirement was brought down to 22,978 acres by excluding thickly populated villages and hill areas situated around the periphery of land boundary. Land acquired as on date is 21,655 acres, including 9,625 acres of Government land. Out of the acquired land, 3626 acres have been earmarked for expansion of the Plant and the Township and also for the Green Belt, as per the stipulation of Department of Environment while the remaining land has been utilised.